

Patent Claims

1. Procedure for performing a test for acceptability in the acceptance of bank notes by automatic vending machines, wherein a bank note is fed to a digitalization station via a transport unit and is at least partially digitized, wherein the data obtained in this manner are compared with stored data in a computer unit, which performs a determination of value, and renders an automatic decision regarding acceptability; if the automatic decision regarding acceptability is negative, an image of the digitized data is generated in order to allow its visual inspection by a service employee, who then renders a final decision regarding acceptability.
2. Method in accordance with claim 1, is characterized in that the digitization of the bank note is accomplished by scanning.
3. The procedure in accordance with one of the preceding claims, characterized by an image data comparison being performed in form of data comparison.
4. Method in accordance with one of the preceding claims, is characterized in that, if the automatic decision is negative, a detailed inspection of adjustable parameters is performed, in order that a preliminary decision between a direct rejection of the bank note and a final decision by a service employee may be rendered automatically.
5. Method in accordance with one of the preceding claims is characterized in that the service employee via keyboard input registers the final decision regarding acceptance.
6. Method in accordance with one of the preceding claims is characterized in that in the imaging, the areas of deviation that prompted the negative automatic decision regarding acceptance are automatically marked.

7. Device used in automatic vending machines to accept bank notes, with a test for acceptability in accordance with a method as described in one of the claims 1 through 6, comprising at least one unit for receiving a bank note, a transport/feed unit, a digitization unit, a computer unit, an image display unit, an input unit, and a unit for returning, advancing, collecting, and stacking the bank notes.
8. Device in accordance with claim 7, is characterized in that the digitalization unit is a scanner.
9. Device in accordance with claim 7, is characterized in that the digitalization unit is a digital camera.
10. Device in accordance with one of the claims 7 through 9, is characterized in that the image display unit is a monitor.
11. Device in accordance with one of the claims 7 through 10, is characterized in that the input unit is a keyboard.
12. Device in accordance with one of the claims 7 through 11, is characterized in that the said device is equipped with supplementary signal units for optical and/or acoustic indicators.

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